

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8733

INFO USUN NEW YORK 2772

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PASS STR FOR MIKE SMITH

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: DISCUSSION OF MFA AT TDB SPECIAL SESSION

1. UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB) IS MEETING MAR 8-19 IN SPECIAL SESSION IN PREPARATION FOR UNCTAD IV CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI IN MAY. BOARD ESSENTIALLY CONDUCTING PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH REVIEW OF MANILA DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION, THE LIST OF DEMANDS FORMULATED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (G-77) FOR UNCTAD IV AND CIEC. SECTION II OF MANILA ACTION PROGRAM CONTAINS PARA WHICH STATES "IT IS NECESSARY TO AVOID THE PROLONGATION AND MULTIPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS DESIGNED TO VALIDATE ARRANGEMENTS REQUIRING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO "VOLUNTARILY" RESTRAIN THEIR EXPORTS, AS IS THE CASE IN THE ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES."

2. CONTACT GROUP NO. 1 OF THE BOARD ON MARCH 11 DISCUSSED ABOVE-CITED PARAGRAPH. SPOKESMAN FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (MONTGOMERY OF CANADA) ASSURED LDCS THAT NO EXTENSIVE
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MULTIPLICATION OF THIS KIND OF ARRANGEMENT IS IN PROSPECT.

HE NOTED THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE BENFICIAL TO BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY PROVIDING FOR ORDERLY GROWTH IN A SENSITIVE AREA. (THIS POINT WAS ALSO EMPHASIZED BY AUSTRALIA.) AS TO THE QUESTION OF PROLONGATION, THIS IS MATTER WHICH WILL BE NEGOTIATED BY THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MFA.

3. PAKISTAN COMMENTED THAT THIS PARAGRAPH WAS INSERTED IN MANILA TEXT BECAUSE PAKISTAN WANTS TO HAVE THE MFA EXPIRE. HE CLAIMED THAT MFA VIOLATED ARTICLES 11 AND 13 OF GATT, AND THAT PARTICIPANTS HAD AGREED NOT RPT NOT TO RENEW IT.

4. CHADHA (INDIA) AGREED THAT MFA-TYPE ARRANGEMENTS CAN HAVE BENEFITS FOR ALL PARTIES. HOWEVER, THE IMPORTING DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE REPEATEDLY VIOLATED THE MFA, THUS DISTURBING THE BALANCE BETWEEN IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT GROUP B (DEVELOPED COUNTRIES) SPOKESMAN USED THE ADJECTIVE "EXTENSIVE" IN MAKING HIS ASSURANCES THAT THERE WOULD BE "NO EXTENSIVE MULTIPLICATION" OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS. LDCS ARE STILL WORRIED ABOUT ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW MFA-TYPE AGREEMENTS.

5. SPOKESMAN FOR GROUP D (SOCIALIST COUNTRIES FOR EASTERN EUROPE) VOICED SUPPORT FOR THIS PARAGRAPH, NOTING THAT COUNTRIES IN HIS GROUP ALSO SUFFER FROM RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY THESE KINDS OF ARRANGEMENTS.

6. ENTIRE DISCUSSION IN CONTACT GROUP TOOK ONLY ABOUT FIVE-TEN MINUTES. DALE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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